

# September Newsletter

SEPT 2010

Inside this issue:

## A Note From Ms. Theresa

Maria Montessori was quite a genius. Her method of education is the only one that exists all over the world today. Maria Montessori was born into a family of noble origin in Ancona, Italy in 1870. This was the year that Italy became a united country. When Maria was fourteen years old, the family moved to Rome where Maria could get a better education. She was always interested in mathematics. Her parents wanted her to become a teacher however she was intent on going to medical school. Women were not accepted in medical school in Italy, but she was persistent. The men treated her with contempt and ridicule, forcing her to work on dissecting cadavers alone at night. She graduated from medical school becoming the first woman doctor in Italy.

From the start, she became devoted to championing the rights of the underdog and protested childhood labor in the mines and rights for women. The government asked her to direct a program in the San Lorenzo section of Rome where children were left on the streets while their mothers worked. She found a large room and a seamstress to teach, because she wanted someone with no background in teaching. She had small

tables, chairs, and materials made for the sixty children three through six years. Thus the first Montessori environment was born. Observing the children carefully as they worked in the classroom, she supplied what they wanted to learn. From her observations she declared her Principles of Education.

Montessori observed children need movement and experiences using all of their senses while using their hands. Recent research has linked memory and movement. For example, actors can recall their lines as many as five years later. Musicians remember the music as mind and hand, sometimes feet, move together. Facial movements help us remember people. Movement enhances learning, thinking, cognition and a sense of control over our lives.

From preschool through college, research has proven interest greatly influences our learning. When the topic was of interest, students were able to recall more points, information and detail. Interest affects self-esteem, perception of one's own skill and intrinsic motivation on a range of school subjects while building on prior knowledge and linking to new knowledge.

In Montessori schools, classrooms have a three-hour work cycle that provides the opportunity for concentration, personal choice, and freedom, within limits. Each student is encouraged to be constructive for oneself and for society. Undisturbed concentration allows the student to reach higher depths in learning concepts. How does the Montessori child adapt to traditional classrooms? A Milwaukee study showed students who attended Montessori through fifth grade and then transferred to a traditional classroom performed just as well or better than children in traditional classrooms.

Montessori observed children worked because they gained great satisfaction from learning. Research shows intrinsic motivation in traditional schools decline because of heavy reliance on grades and other motivators. One athlete who had won many trophies and prizes had to reduce practice hours, therefore did not win the prizes as formerly. He soon gave up the sport.

Collaborative learning means working together on the same task. When teams of four students at a high school were learning about the particulate theory of matter, the group who worked together scored

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Extracurricular Activities	2&3
Menu	4
Props Needed	5
Scouts	5
Art	5

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### Announcements:

- Don't forget school dismisses at 2:00 on Mondays for staff meetings.
- Please purchase your child's lunch and extra milk tickets in advance!
- Please remember - no bills are sent for extended day charges! If you use extended day you must pay for it before the 10th of the following month. You can find out the amount you owe from the office.

significantly higher on post test of conceptual learning than those who worked in the traditional manner.

Most of all, Montessori knew the spirit of children must be kept alive and well so their self-concept, enthusiasm, and joy in learning will last a lifetime.

## Private Music Lessons

Private piano lessons are available during the school day for students from 1st through 8th grade. If you are interested in piano lessons, contact either Ms. Cheryl Walls at 823-7658 or Ms. Lauren Townsend at 995-9812.

Mr. David Handler, an outstanding violinist currently with Alabama Symphony Orchestra, will be available for violin lessons at Bruno Montessori Academy. Lessons are given once a week. Violin lessons may be taken by interested students ages 5 years to 8th grade, subject to availability. Students as young as 3 years old may be considered for lessons, with much parent involvement. If your child is interested in violin lessons, please contact Mr. Handler at 733-0550.

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## Tennis Lessons

**Katie Todd, Head Coach**

**Beth Edge, Assistant Coach**

Two sessions offered for 5-year-olds through 8th grade, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, please contact Katie Todd at 980-5136 or email at ktoddtennis@gmail.com.

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## Cub Scouts

**Daisy, Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts**

For students interested in scouts:

Cub Scouts is offered for boys in 1st through 5th grade.

Tigers—leader needed

Wolves—Chris Kitchens and Andrew Boyd

Bears (3rd grade) - Roxanne Hankins

Webelos (4th grade) - Frank Sottosanti

Webelos (5th grade) - Frank Sottosanti

**For more information please contact Spencer Atkins at 663-5418, or email at [scouting\\_dad@att.net](mailto:scouting_dad@att.net).**

Daisy Scouts is offered for Kindergarten & 1st grade girls.

Kindergarten Daisies need a leader

1st grade Daisies leader is Colleen Rougeaux

Brownie Scouts for 2nd and 3rd grade girls.

2nd grade Brownies need a leader.

3rd grade Brownies leader is Colleen Rougeaux

Junior Girl Scouts for 4th and 5th grades.

4th grade Girl Scouts need a leader

5th grade Girl Scouts leader is Rita Cooper

**For more information on Girl Scouts, please contact Rita Cooper at 980-1778 or email at [ritaacooper@aol.com](mailto:ritaacooper@aol.com)**

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## Children's Dance Foundation

Children's Dance Foundation comes to the Bruno Montessori campus on Wednesdays

2:50—3:25 pm 3 & 4 year olds / Creative Movement

(students must be 3yrs old by September 30, 2010)

3:40—4:25 pm 5 year olds—1st grade / Creative Dance Fundamentals.

For more information, please call 870-0073. Registration forms may be picked up at the school office or found on CDF's website [www.childrensdancefoundation.org](http://www.childrensdancefoundation.org).

## Art Enrichment

With Ms. Bev

Preschool Art Enrichment—Students must be 5 years old  
Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30

1st through 8th grade Art Enrichment  
Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00

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## Soccer

U6—Coach needed, please contact Coach Adam at adam@jsbacademy.org  
U8—Coach Needed, please contact Coach Adam at adam@jsbacademy.org  
U10—Coach Nathaniel Bray

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**Basketball**—Coach Tim Davis

**Spanish Club**—Upper Elementary only—Ms. Evelyn

**Math Club**—Upper Elementary only—Ms. Kim

**Science Club**—Upper Elementary only—Ms. Kim

**Year Book**—6th through 8th grades—Ms. Melinda

**FIRST Lego Robotic League**—Ages 9 through 14—Nathaniel Bray

**FIRST Jr. League Team**—Ages 6 through 8—Nathaniel Bray

**Computer Programming**—Ages 10 through 14—Andrew Boyd

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## Chess Team by The Knight School

The Bruno Chess team will meet on Thursdays at 3:15 in the Middle School building. Each meeting will be 75 minutes.

For more information please contact, David Brooks at [dbrooksphd@hotmail.com](mailto:dbrooksphd@hotmail.com) or  
to view their website go to [www.theknightschool.com](http://www.theknightschool.com)

Looking for some real fun? Join the biggest chess party in Birmingham! Coached by State Champion David Brooks, Ph.D., our Bruno Montessori Chess Team meets this year every Thursday right after school right here in the Middle School building. We would love to have you! Beginners are welcome along with established players, and enrollment is open to kids in kindergarten and up. It is amazing how the younger kids take to the fun and competitive nature of chess! Last year, for example, one of coach's first graders won the city championship, defeating a seventh grader in the finals! Coach's teams are now 44-0 in Knight School history. Our chess team practices are 80% fun activities--chess movies, fun tournaments, silly puzzlers, and competing for prizes--and 20% deadly serious chess. The Knight School is Birmingham's super-fun interconnected network of 24 school chess teams, including many of the Mountain Brook, Vestavia, Montessori, Catholic, and many other school chess teams! Individuals from any school may join the high-energy Bruno Chess team, and our students can in turn attend at all the other locations at no cost other than the standard \$80 monthly tuition. Become a part of this exciting network of chess friends who take their tactical chess training and their fun very seriously!

Personalized remote controls, colorfully bracketed ongoing monthly chess tournaments, driving music, chess puzzlers, chess movies, and Dr. Brooks' high-energy teaching style makes Knight School chess addictive! See [www.theknightschool.com](http://www.theknightschool.com) for all the details! To join the chess team, simply contact Coach at 823-5715 or email him at [dbrooksphd@hotmail.com](mailto:dbrooksphd@hotmail.com).

ALTAMONT    BROOKWOOD FOREST    BRUNO MONTESSORI    CHEROKEE BEND    CRESTLINE ELEMEN-  
TARY    GWIN ELEMENTARY    HIGHLANDS SCHOOL  
HILLTOP MONTESSORI    JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER    MOUNTAIN BROOK ELEMENTARY    MOUNTAIN BROOK  
JUNIOR HIGH    OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY    PRINCE OF PEACE    SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER    SOUTH SHADES CREST    VESTAVIA  
EAST    VESTAVIA WEST    VESTAVIA CENTRAL  
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# September 2010

## Lunch Menu

The Salad bar offers an assortment of lettuces, tomatoes, cheeses, pasta, coleslaw, soy nuts, boiled egg, applesauce, carrots, broccoli, tuna salad, sunflower seeds, raisins, and fruits daily.

Vegetarian dishes available daily.

\*No hot dogs are served to preschoolers. Chicken nuggets are served instead.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 Spaghetti w/Meat Or Marinara Sauce Broccoli Garlic Bread Jell-O  Salad Bar	2 Chicken Nuggets or Spinach Rice Casserole Rotini Pasta Green Beans Fresh Melon  Salad Bar	3 Cheese or Veggie Pizza Carrot Sticks w/Dip Mixed Fresh Fruit  Salad Bar
<b>6 Labor Day NO SCHOOL</b>	7 Oven Fried Chicken Legs or Spinach Rice Casserole Oven Browned Potatoes  Salad Bar	8 Mac & Cheese Mixed Veggies Blackeye Peas Rolls Orange Wedges  Salad Bar	9 Chicken Noodle or Cream of Broccoli Soup Grilled Cheese Bananas  Salad Bar	10 Hotdogs or Veggie Dogs Baked Chips Carrot Sticks Mixed Fresh Fruit  Salad Bar
13 BBQ Chicken or Salmon Patties Bowtie Pasta Green Beans Apple Wedges  Salad Bar	14 Hamburger Steak or Veggie Fettuccini Alfredo Oven Browned Potatoes Mixed Veggies Salad Bar	15 Baked Turkey or Tuna Salad Creamed Potatoes Veggie Medley Rolls  Salad Bar	16 Beef Tips or Stuffed Shells Pinto Beans Rice Glazed Carrots Mixed Melon Salad Bar	17 Turkey, Tuna or Cheese Wraps Baked Chips Veggie Sticks Fresh Fruit  Salad Bar
20 Baked Fish Rotini Pasta Green Peas Garlic Bread Pineapple  Salad Bar	21 Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Stir Fried Veggies Spice Cake  Salad Bar	22 Fettuccini Alfredo Veggie Medley Rolls Grapes  Salad Bar	23 Meat or Spinach Lasagna Broccoli Garlic Bread Bananas  Salad Bar	24 Cheese or Veggie Pizza Celery Sticks Melon  Salad Bar
27 Chicken Filet Sandwiches Rotini Pasta Lentil Pot Pie Green Peas Apple Sauce  Salad Bar	28 Turkey Patties Sweet Potatoes Broccoli Apples  Salad Bar	29 Beef or Veggie Stew Corn Corn Bread Rice Krispie Treats  Salad Bar	30 Scrambled Eggs Grits Biscuits Jelly Oranges  Salad Bar	

## Props for *The Little Mermaid*

## Girl and Boy Scout Leaders Needed

The items listed below are needed for the school play:

12 Gymnastic type ribbon flags (Dollartree)

Babydoll

2 yards white fabric (sail)

12 yards blue fabric (water)

Kazoo

Styrofoam

Large flower pot (foam or plastic)

Ladle

Rubber chicken

10 tubes white caulk

Blue mylar curtain

Green mylar curtain

"Whosoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future." Maria Montessori

### For More Information Contact:

Boy Scouts: Spencer Atkins, Cubmaster  
scouting\_dad@att.net  
229-0806 or 663-5418

Girl Scouts: Rita Cooper, Girl Scout Coordinator  
RitaACooper@aol.com  
980-1778

"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." Lily Tomlin

## Fine Arts Department

### Welcome Back Everyone!

Each new school year I ask parents, friends, students to remember the Art Department before throwing or giving items away. We use many found objects as well as fabric, tiles, beads, ribbons. You name it, we can probably put it to good use!

Also, we are looking for interesting things to add to our *Still Life* collection, old vases, baskets, statues, scarves, beautiful old hats, typewriter, bowls, pottery, costumes. Think of us before you toss it out. These items can be dropped off in the Fine Arts building anytime and we appreciate it!!!

### Art Enrichment Classes will begin in September.

Academy Students will have class on Thursdays from 3:00-4:00  
each week, beginning September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Preschool Art Enrichment will be on Wednesdays from 2:30 – 3:30.  
Students must be 5 years old to join. Classes begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please contact Ms. Bev 685-5856 for details and to sign up.



JOSEPH S. BRUNO  
MONTESSORI ACADEMY

5509 Timber Hill Road  
Birmingham, AL 35242

Phone: 205-995-8709  
Email: [firstname@jsbacademy.org](mailto:firstname@jsbacademy.org)  
example: [theresa@jsbacademy.org](mailto:theresa@jsbacademy.org)



Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy  
Mission Statement

The faculty of the Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy provides the opportunity for all students to grow to the fullest potential cognitively, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and aesthetically.

The Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy's Value Statement:

- We embrace with respect all students regardless of racial, cultural or religious background, gender or the physically or mentally challenged.
- We provide each child a foundation for a lifetime of learning.
- All students will become committed to creating peace, and taking care of the environment in their homes, school, and communities.
- We foster students' development of positive self-esteem; so they will become competent learners and accept leadership roles in the world of tomorrow.

## Important Dates in September....

- 6 Labor Day—No School
- 7 Preschool 1st day
- 20 Children's Theater *The Frog Prince* K5
- 21 Open House

Remember to check radio stations WERC 960 AM or WAPI 1070 AM or TV station FOX 6 for school closings due to bad weather. *These stations only announce when the school will be closed.*

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***PLEASE BE  
CONSIDERATE!***

Please do not park in the drop-off/pick-up lanes to have a conversation with another parent, talk to a teacher, or come into the school. Please park in a designated parking place and not hold up the traffic in the drop-off/pick-up lines.